164 Over 50 per cent of the individuals treated
[758] in the oil company dispensary in 1950 were suffering from conjunctivitis.

164 Skin infections are prevalent. Where
312 water is scarce the Moslem tribes sometimes
228 employ sand in the ablutions required according to religious rites. As a consequence, many acquire infections in existing abrasions of the skin. Ulcers on legs and arms are observed repeatedly. Skin diseases are reported to be particularly evident among the pearl divers.

164 Leprosy is present, but no studies have
361 been made to determine the distribution of the infection. Some tribes are said to ostracize lepers and to require them to live in segregated colonies.

Diseases Spread by Arthropods

164 Malaria is highly endemic in the towns
136 and agricultural areas, while extensive outbreaks are reported from time to time. Transmission probably is most active from April to June and from October to January, as in the oases on the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. All forms of the disease are encountered, but outbreaks usually are attributed to *Plasmodium falciparum*. *P. vivax* predominated among the cases in which the type was determined at the oil company dispensary in 1950. Among 17 cases treated in that year, 5 were classified as due to *P. vivax*; 3, to *P. malariae*; 1, to *P. falciparum*; while 8 were not identified.

Outbreaks of sandfly fever and dengue fever are recorded occasionally, but the incidence of other arthropod-borne diseases is uncertain.

SUMMARY

162 Trucial Oman, formerly designated as the
161 "Pirate Coast," comprises 7 independent
361 sheikhdoms on the eastern coast of Arabia, near the entrance to the Persian Gulf. The population is heterogeneous, although predominantly Arab and Moslem. In 1951, it was estimated at 80,000, including about 10 per cent belonging to nomadic Bedouin tribes.

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